

(3) If paddy be taken to the Thoduvetti market for sale, there was the trouble from the Civil Supplies Officers.

(4) The people of the *pakuthies* of Vilavancode, Arudesappattu, Mulakumel, Kunnathur, Nallur, &c., of the Vilavancode taluk, who had to take paddy to Palukal, Edakode, Kalial and other places, had to pass through Parassala which was within the Trivandrum Division. According to the rules of the Civil Supplies Department, they could not take paddy outside the Padmanabhapuram Division without a pass. They should be exempted from the production of passes.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

65. Need for the creation of an Advisory Board to regulate irrigation in South Travancore.

Mr. D. C. Joseph (Member, Nominated) referred to the paddy famine in the State and observed that, if proper and efficient arrangements had not been made by the Government through its Civil Supplies Department at considerable cost for importing paddy and distributing it among the people, a large proportion would have died of starvation. The situation to which the State had been driven was sufficient to convince both the people and the Government that everything possible should be done to increase the output of paddy in the land. He was aware that steps were already being taken to do everything possible to relieve suffering. Still a good deal remained to be done in the way of affording irrigational facilities. The people had been benefited by the Pachippara dam, and through the energy and sympathetic attitude of the P. W. Officers in charge of irrigation, the feeder channels were also full of water. Even then the maximum good to the people could not accrue with the help of officers alone. The co-operation and assistance of the ryots were essential. The view points of the officers and of the ryots were different. The latter knew instinctively when water was required and when other help was wanted to bring about a bumper crop. The Member, therefore, suggested the creation of a Board consisting of officers and intelligent ryots to attend to irrigation and other agricultural matters.

Dewan's reply.—Necessary steps will be taken in the matter of constituting the Board.

66. Provision of roads and other means of communication for the benefit of the depressed classes.

Mr. D. C. Joseph (Member, Nominated) said that a good deal was being heard about the ways and means for the elevation of the depressed classes, but enough progress had not been made. It should also be admitted that it was not easy to produce in an year or two tangible results in the process of ameliorating the condition of a people who had been trodden under foot for generations. It was not the Member's idea to speak of granting concessions to them such as building sites, wells, &c. He would confine himself to what was required for them for tolerable existence. The villages of depressed classes in Nanjinad were, as a rule, situated away from habitations and highways; their occupation had doomed them to live on the banks of tanks and in raised places surrounded on all sides by paddy fields. That made it hard for them to have access to public roads without which they could not convey their articles to markets and other places of business. Nor were they in a position to take to their villages necessities of life. The Member's prayer was for the removal of such hindrances to their development. They were denied all facilities of self-development and self-expression. The means of ingress and egress were their primary and chief requirements. The roads he asked for were not long ones, but were only tap-roads to join their villages and the nearest village road. If such roads be opened, they would have free access to neighbouring towns and villages which by itself would foster a sense of self-respect. The hardships attending their movements, especially during the rainy seasons, would be at an end. Travelling during both day and night would be possible. They could have carts to convey their commodities such as straw and manure to other places for sale.